

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 145946

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PN, PFOR

SUBJECT: JOINT COMMUNIQUE FOR RATIFICATION CEREMONY

1. WE HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED DRAFT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE WORKED OUT DURING PANAMA VISIT OF US OFFICIALS MAY 2-3, FOR ISSUANCE DURING TREATY RATIFICATION CEREMONY JUNE 16. TEXT BELOW REPRESENTS A SHARPENING AND CONDENSATION OF THE MAY DRAFT. WE BELIEVE IT RETAINS, IN A BALANCED WAY, THE ELEMENTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO EACH PARTY. IT HAS US APPROVAL.
2. PLEASE DELIVER TEXT SOONEST TO PANAMANIAN AND EXPRESS HOPE THEY WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO CONCUR WITH THIS WORDING. ADVISE.

QTE. UPON THE RATIFICATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY AND THE TREATY CONCERNING THE PERMANENT NEUTRALITY AND OPERATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA AFFIRMED THE LONG-STANDING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THEIR TWO NATIONS AND FORESAW A NEW ERA OF PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION.

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THEY NOTED THAT SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA EMBARKED UPON ONE OF THE GREATEST UNDERTAKINGS

OF THIS CENTURY. THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, THE PANAMA CANAL LINKING THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS WAS CONSTRUCTED AND OPERATED. SINCE THAT TIME, THE CANAL

HAS REMAINED NEUTRAL, OPEN, AND ACCESSIBLE WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION TO THE SHIPS OF ALL NATIONS, AFFORDING IMMENSE BENEFITS TO THE WORLD.

UNDER THESE TREATIES, WHICH WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE AS STIPULATED IN THE PROTOCOL OF EXCHANGE, THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA HAS DECLARED THAT THE CANAL SHALL BE PERMANENTLY NEUTRAL, AND THAT IT SHALL REMAIN SECURE AND OPEN TO PEACEFUL TRANSIT BY THE VESSELS OF ALL NATIONS. THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA HAVE AGREED THAT THEY WILL MAINTAIN THIS REGIME OF NEUTRALITY. THUS, THE TWO NATIONS HAVE JOINED IN A PARTNERSHIP WHICH REFLECTS IN THE HIGHEST DEGREE THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AND RESPECT WHICH SHOULD GOVERN RELATIONS BETWEEN ALL SOVEREIGN NATIONS.

THE TWO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT RECALLED THE COMMITMENTS OF THEIR COUNTRIES TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION UNDER THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES. THE PARTIES HAVE REAFFIRMED THEIR ADHERENCE TO THIS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE, AND ANY ACTION THEY MAY TAKE TO ASSURE THAT THE PANAMA CANAL SHALL REMAIN OPEN, NEUTRAL, SECURE AND ACCESSIBLE SHALL BE DIRECTED ONLY TOWARD THOSE ENDS.

THE RIGHT OF THE UNITED STATES TO MAINTAIN THE NEUTRALITY OF THE CANAL IS NOT INTENDED TO CONFER A RIGHT OF INTERCONFIDENTIAL

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VENTION IN THE INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA, NOR SHALL IT BE EXERCISED FOR THAT PURPOSE, AND NO UNITED STATES ACTION SHALL EVER BE DIRECTED AGAINST THE SOVEREIGN INTEGRITY OR POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA.

PRESIDENT CARTER AND GENERAL TORRIJOS EXPRESSED THEIR INTENTION TO ESTABLISH A LASTING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA FOUNDED UPON MUTUAL RESPECT, COOPERATION, AND CONSULTATION. THEY BELIEVE THESE TREATIES ARE AN EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD OF TRUE COOPERATION. END QTE.

VANCE

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